

Montana Schools: A Landscape

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An overview

- Look at our schools
 - What's good?
 - Where are our challenges?
- Look at our demography
- Look at our economy
- Look at our policy environment



Montana Schools Perform Well

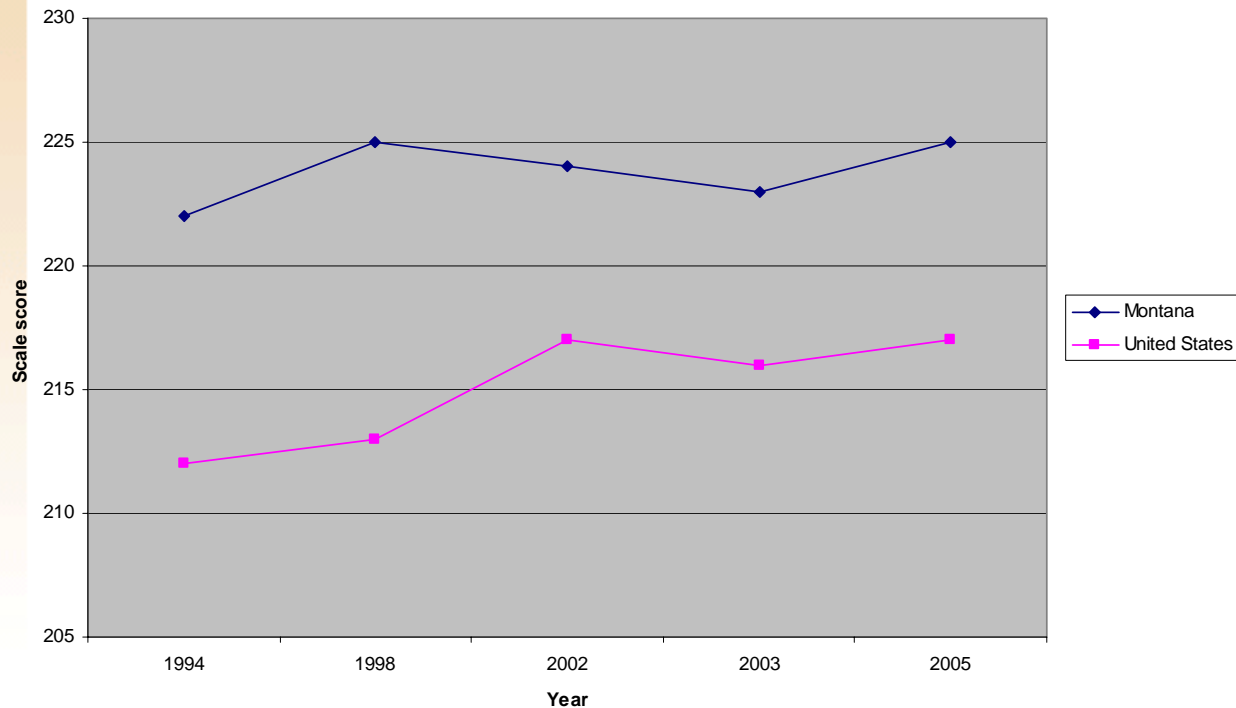
Reform will never be achieved by renewing appropriations, rewriting curricula, and revising texts if we continue to demean and dishearten the human resource called the teacher, on whom so much depends...
(N)one of that will transform education if we fail to cherish – and challenge – the human heart that is the source of good teaching.

-Parker Palmer



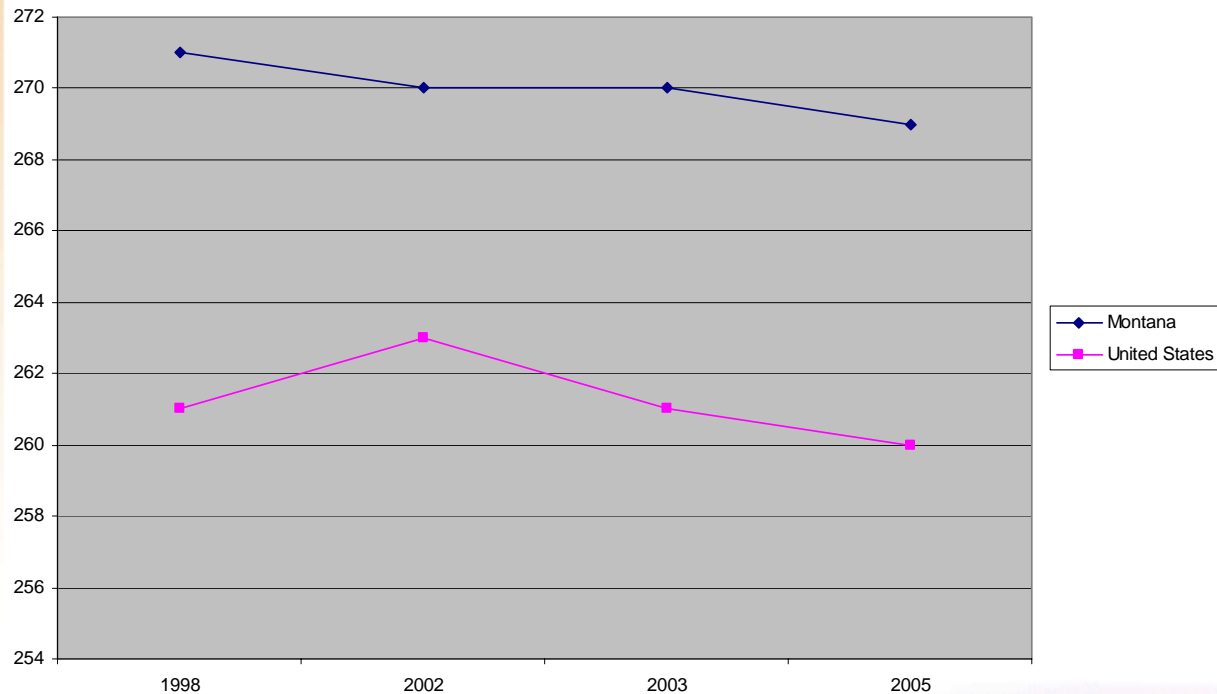
Montana Schools Perform Well

Reading Grade 4 Achievement in Montana Public Schools, National Assessment of Educational Progress



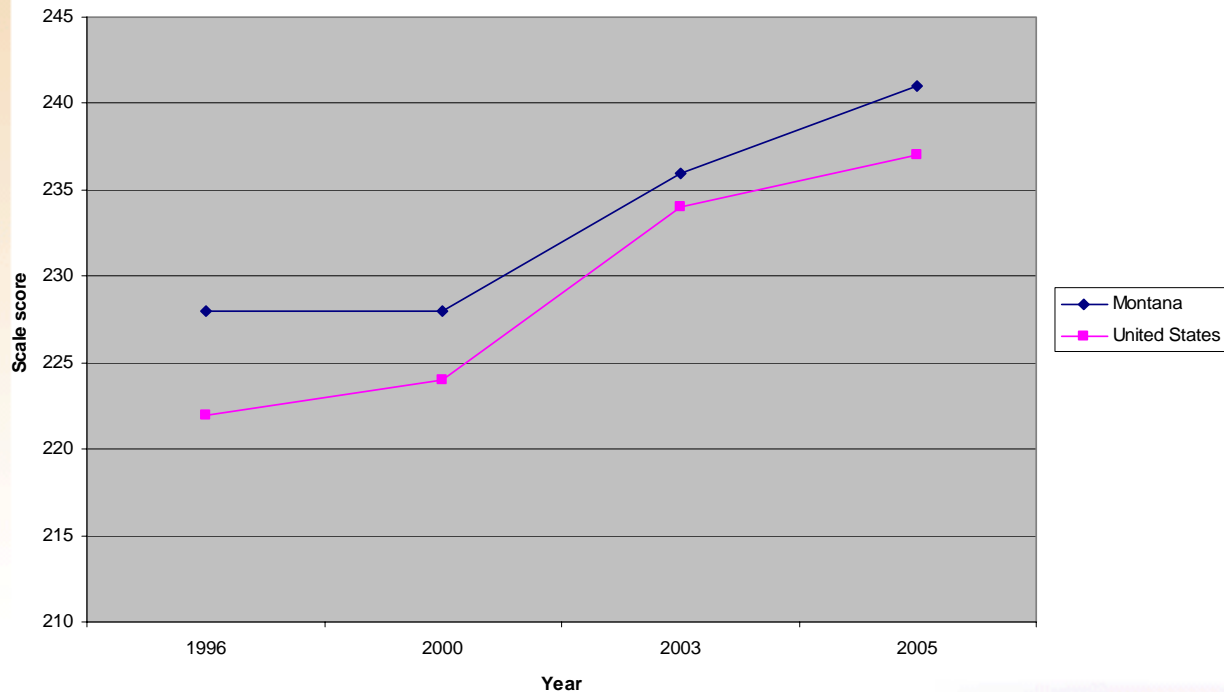
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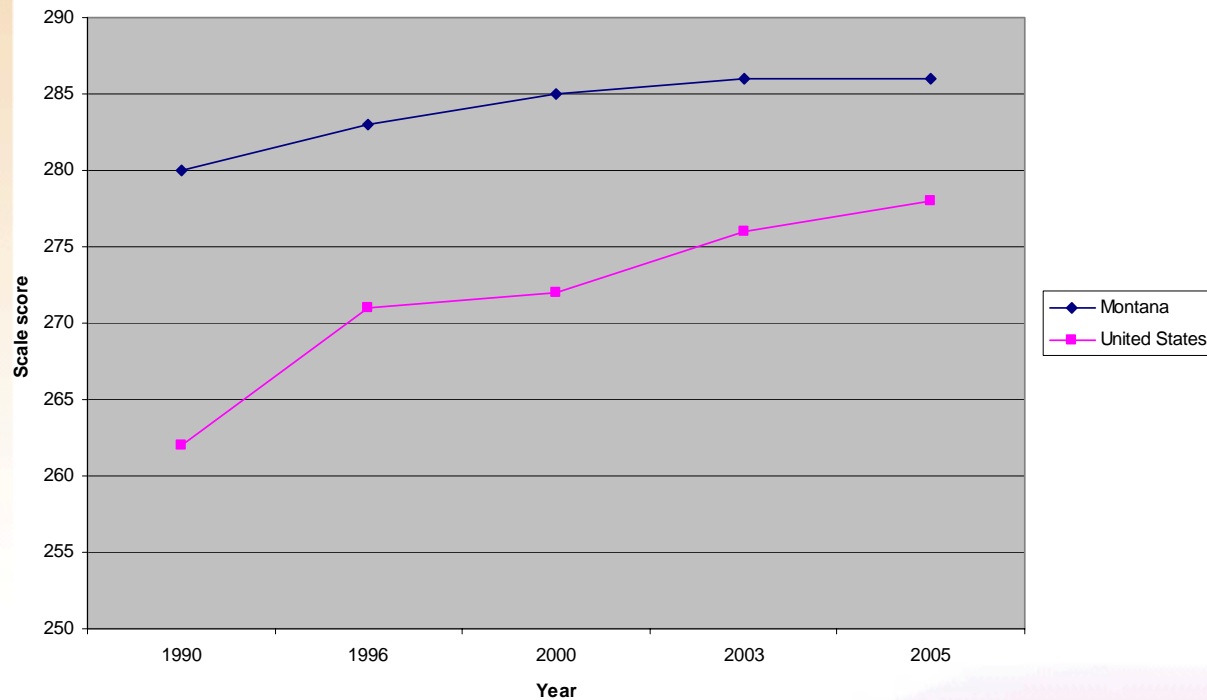
Montana Schools Perform Well

Mathematics Grade 4 Achievement in Montana Public Schools, National Assessment of Educational Progress



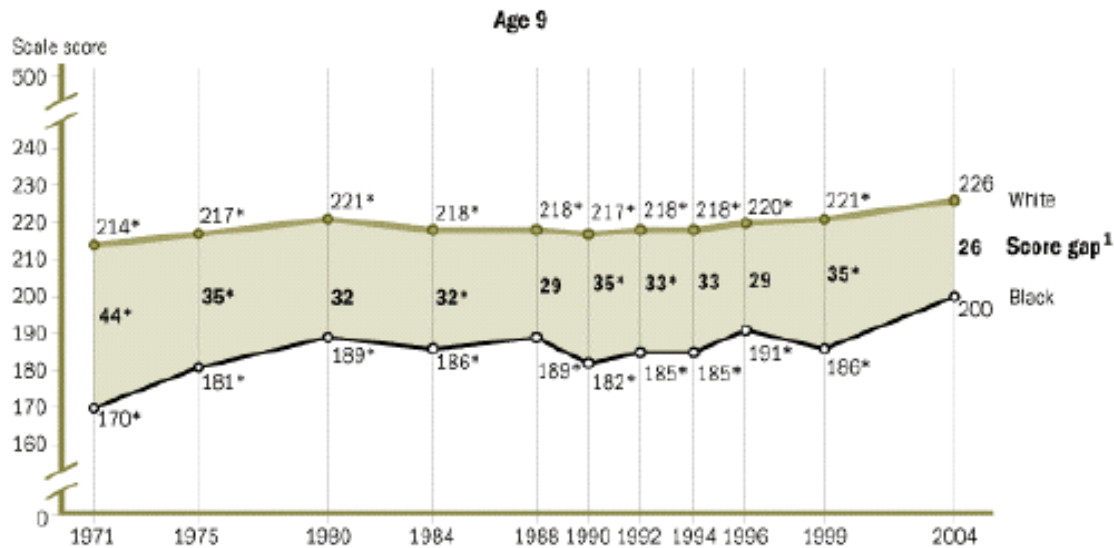
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Montana Schools Perform Well

Black/White Achievement Gap from 1971 – 2004 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

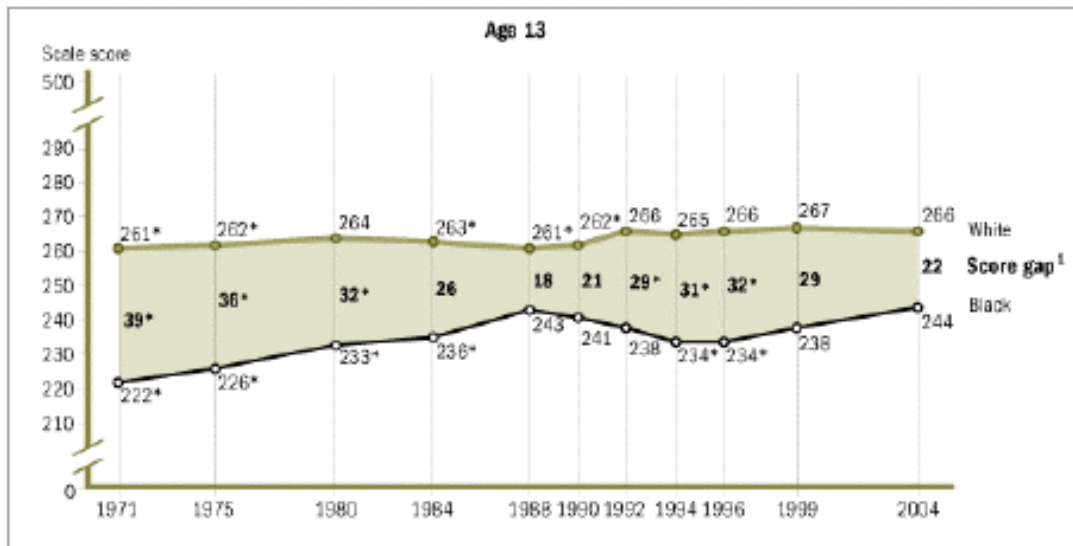


The Nation's Report Card, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ltr/results2004/sub-reading-race.asp>



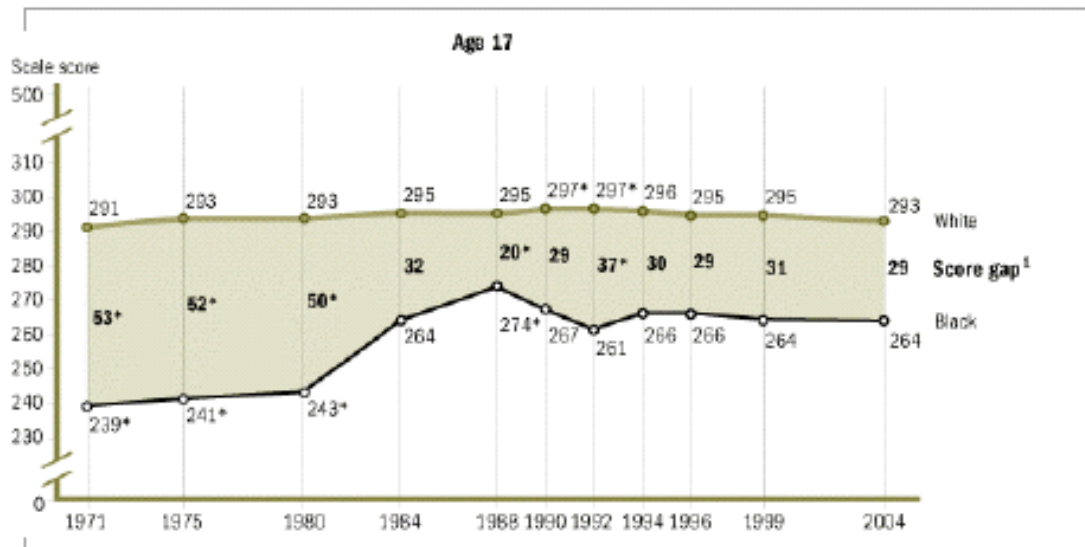
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Black/White Achievement Gap from 1971 – 2004
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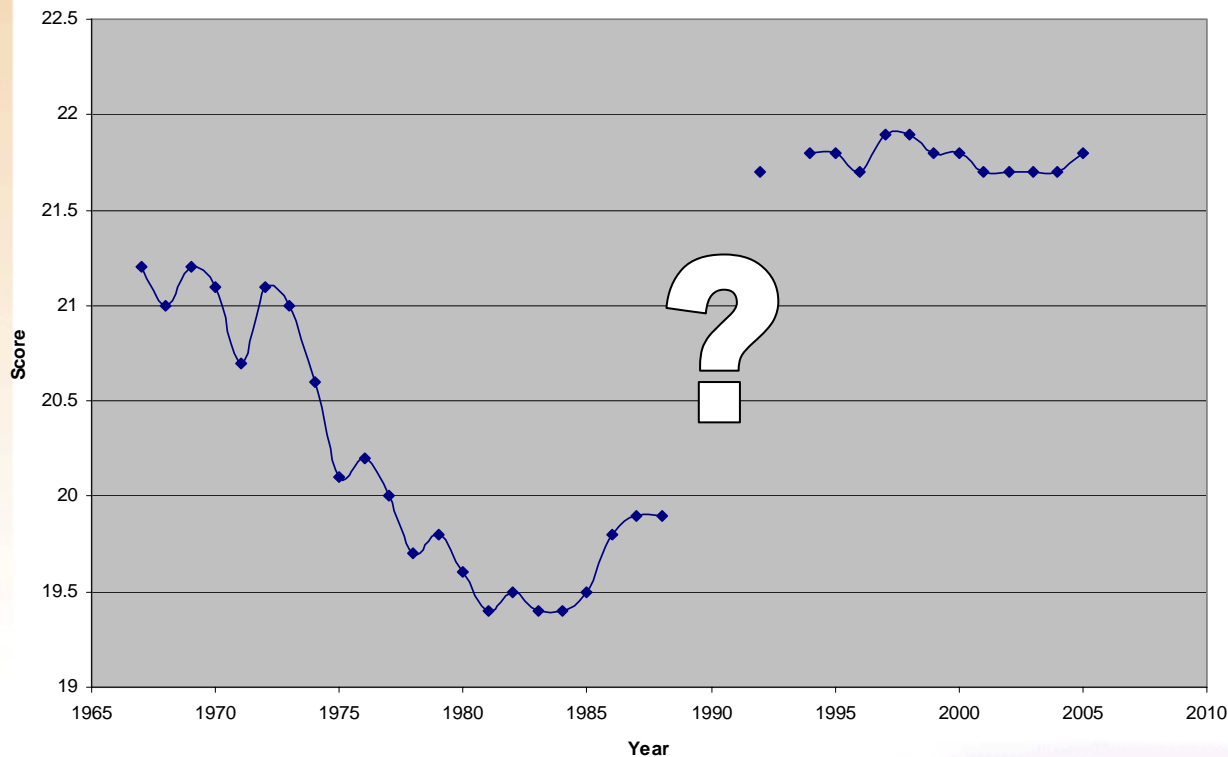


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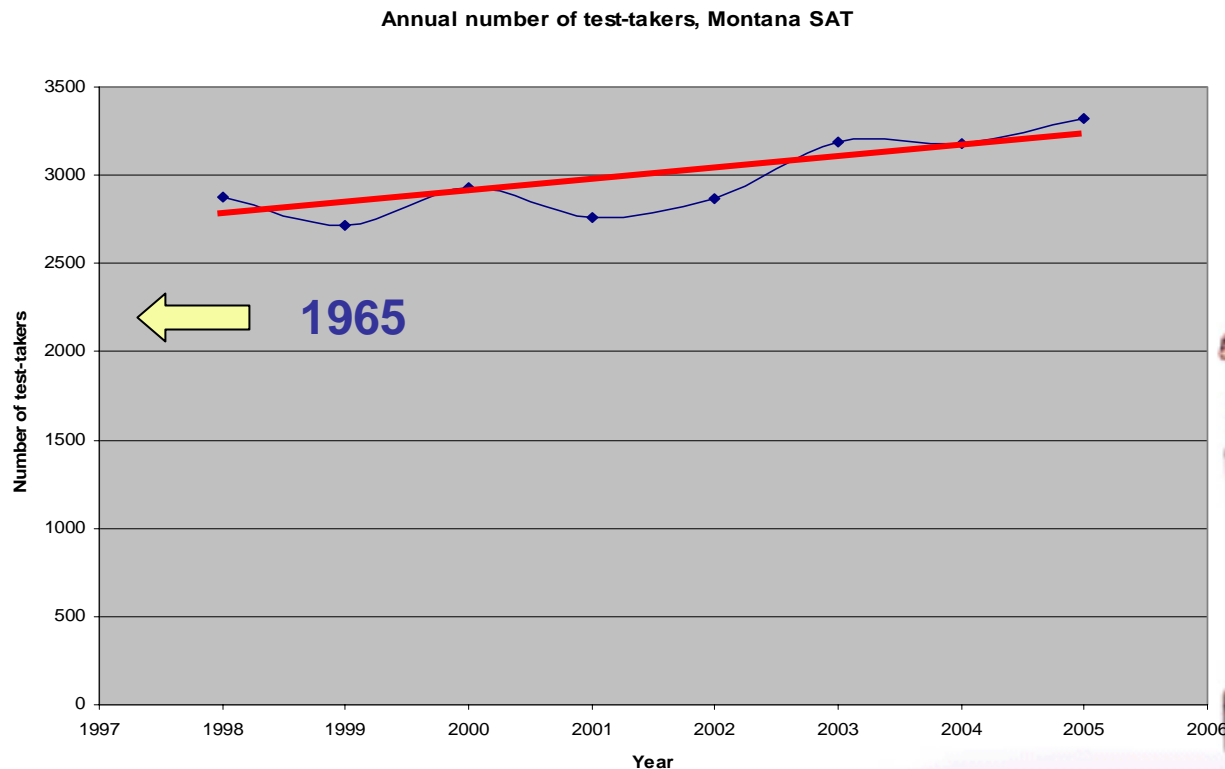


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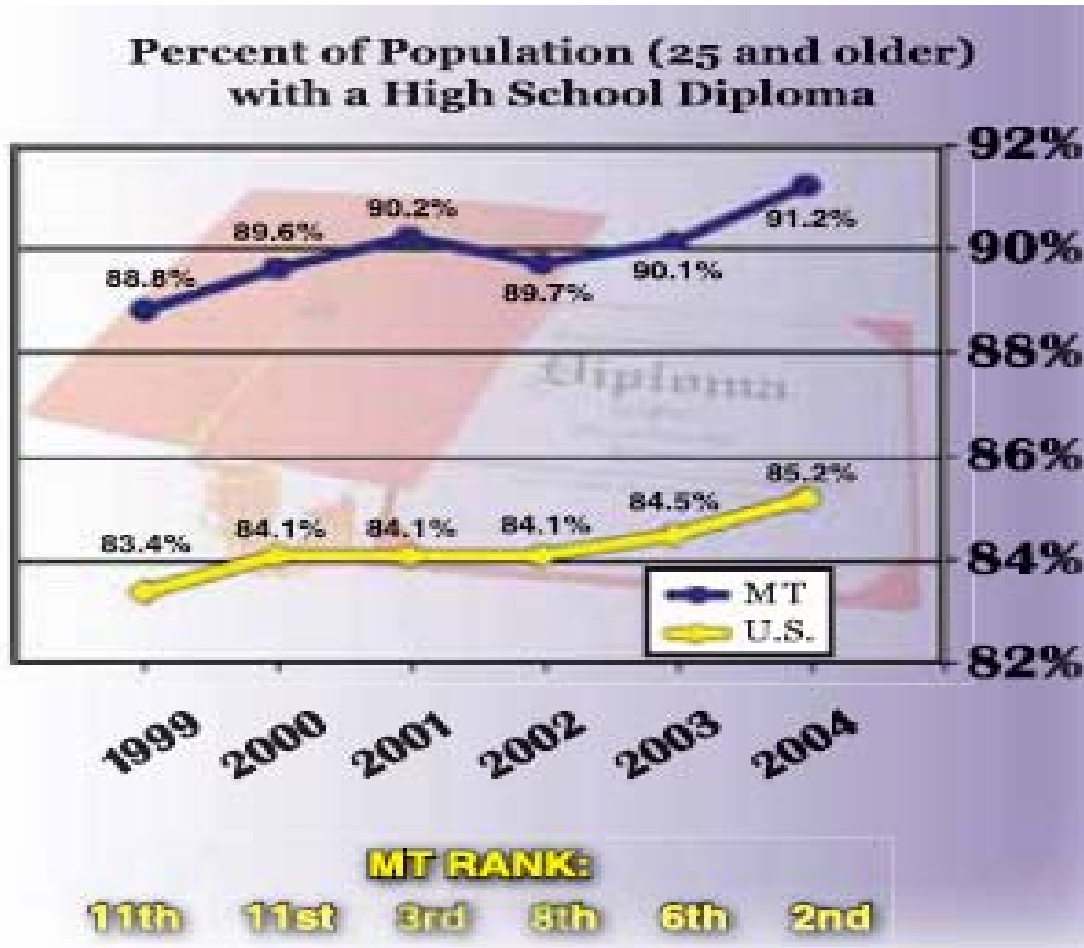
Average ACT Composite Scores Over Time, Montana Public Schools



Montana Schools Perform Well



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Montana Schools Perform Well

“Teachability” Index

-School Readiness

- Preschool enrollment
- English as primary language
- Parental education

-Community

- Crime victimization
- Drug use
- Religious observance
- Residential mobility

-Race

- Non-Hispanic White

-Economics

- Income
- Poverty

-Health

- Disabilities
- Mortality
- Low birth weight survival
- Suicide

-Family

- Teenage birth
- Single parenthood



Montana Schools Perform Well

The State with the largest positive difference in student achievement between ***predicted*** features on the *Teachability Index* and ***actual*** student performance was...

Montana

But that's not all...



Montana Schools Perform Well

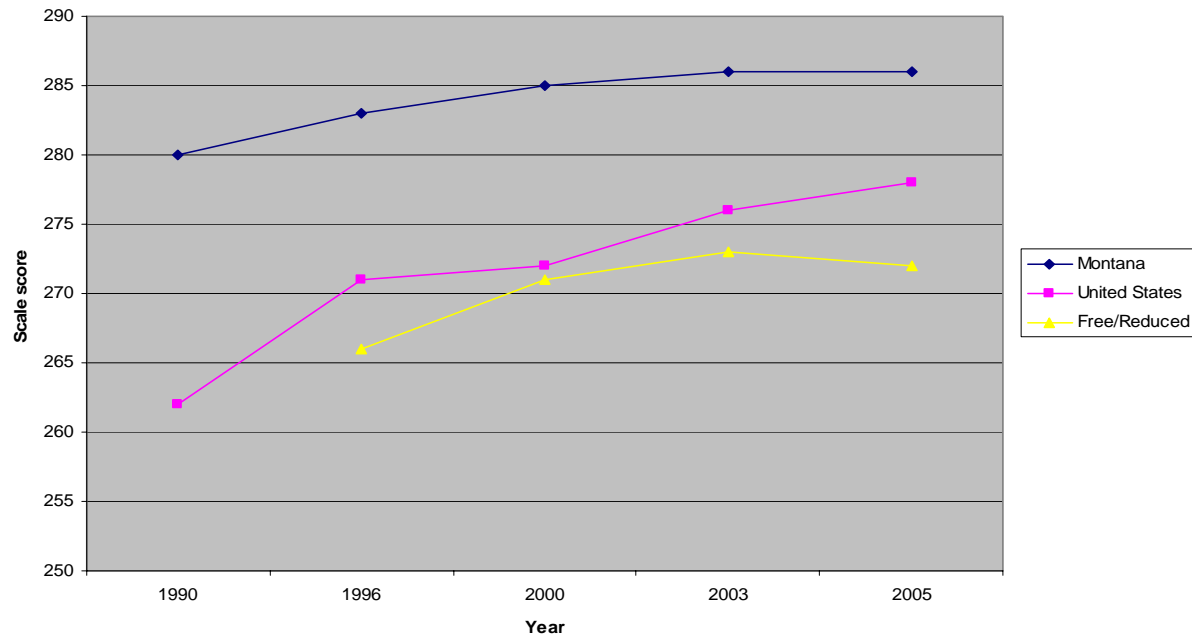
Same study found that Montana was also able to produce the largest difference with the least amount of dollars

Conclusion: Montana has a very efficient school system



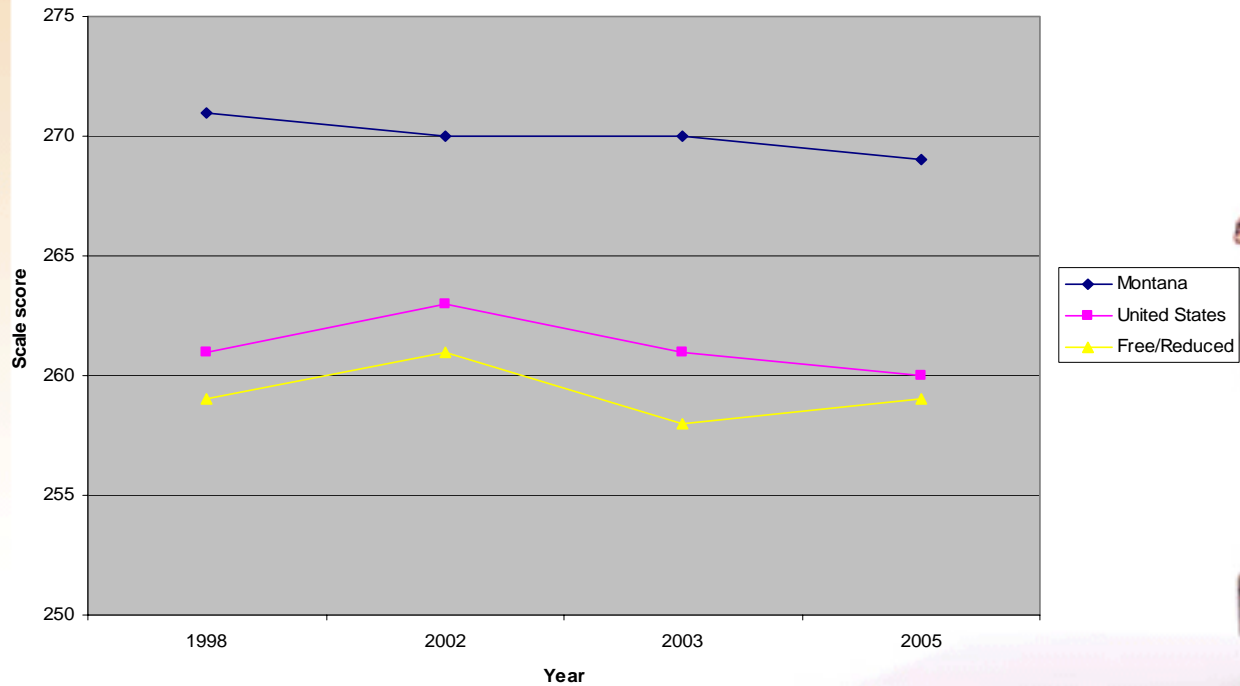
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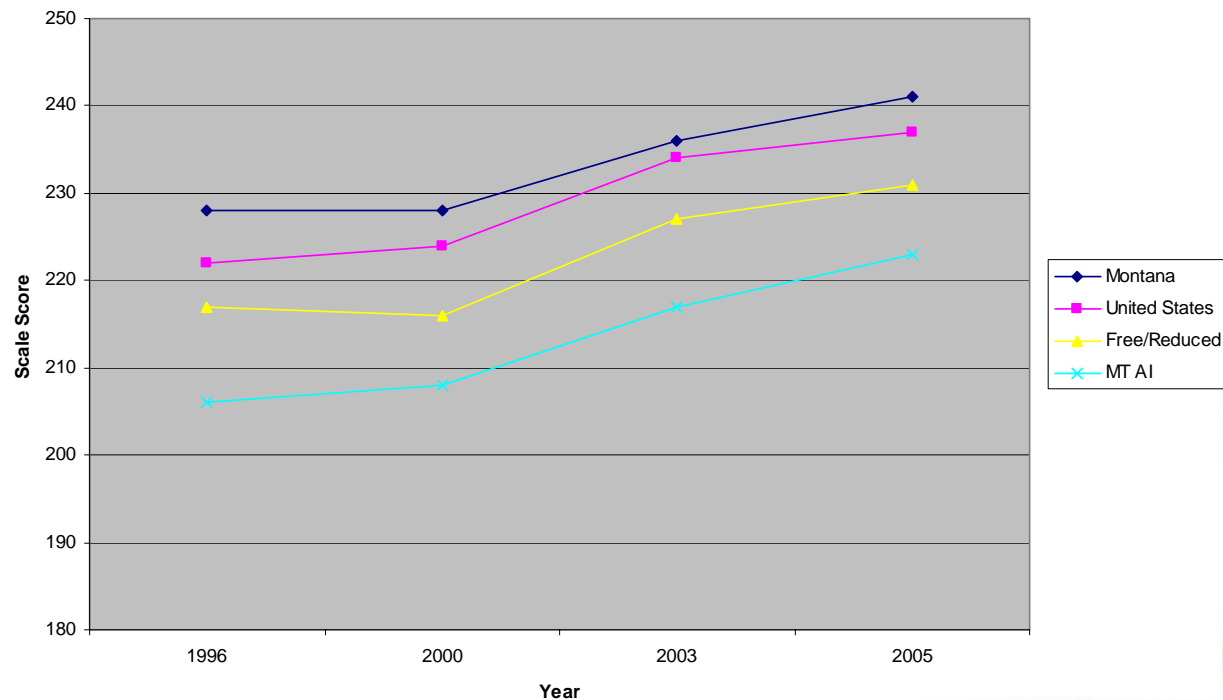
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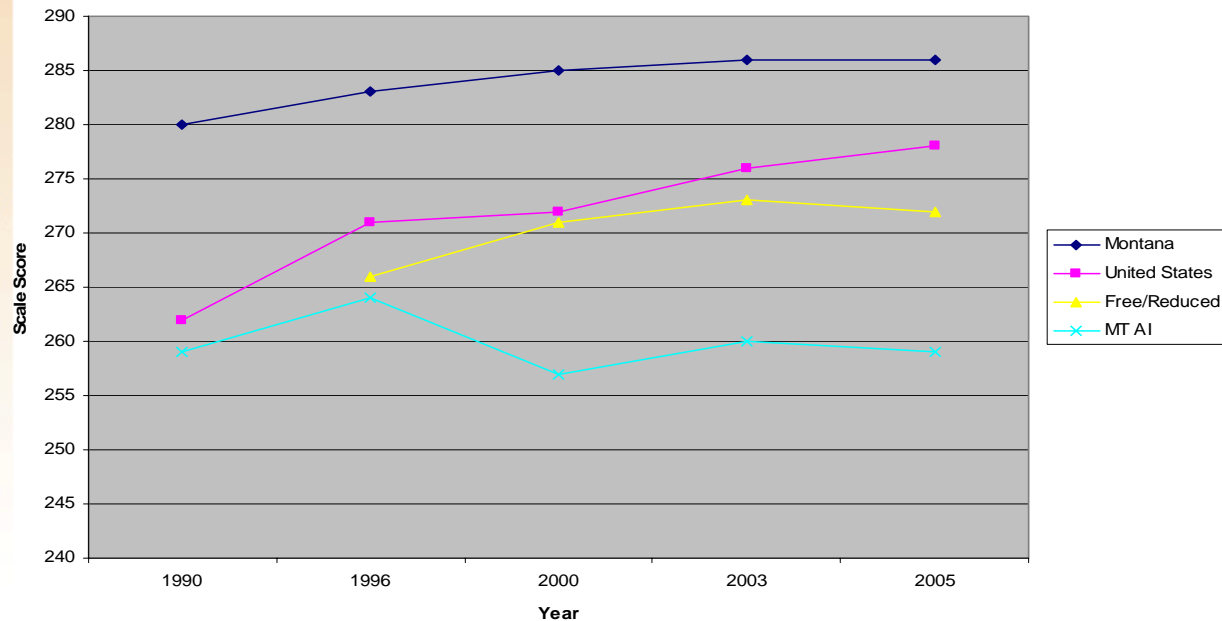
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Grade 4 Mathematics Performance in Montana Public Schools, National Assessment of Educational Progress



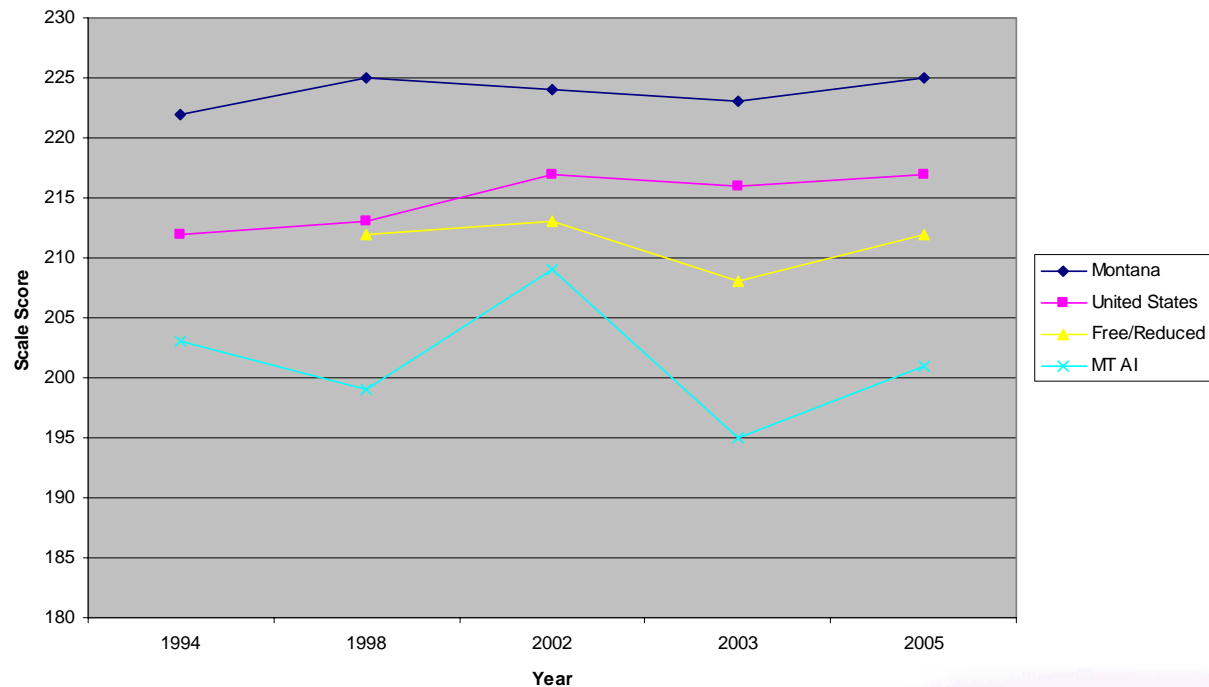
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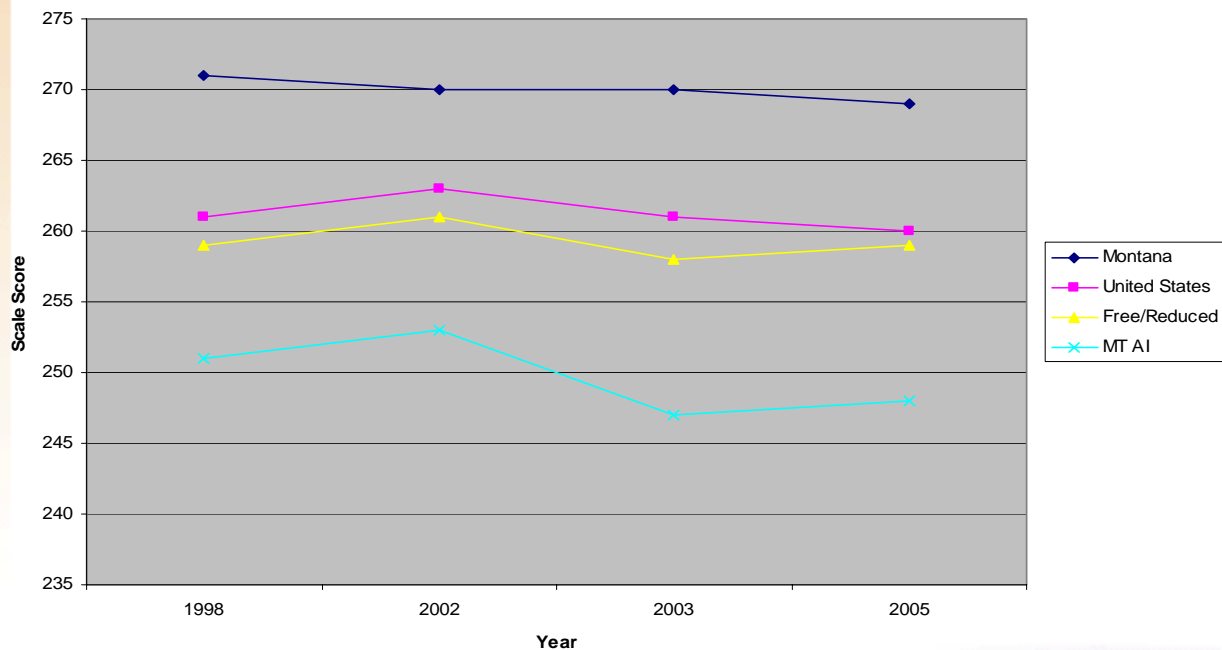
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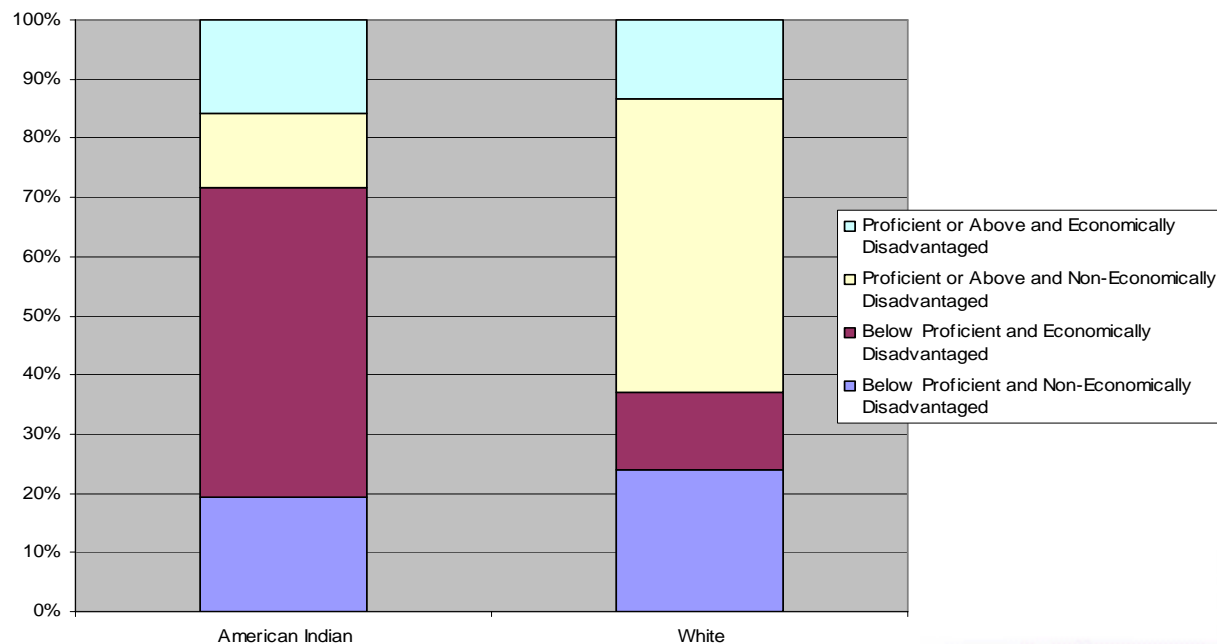
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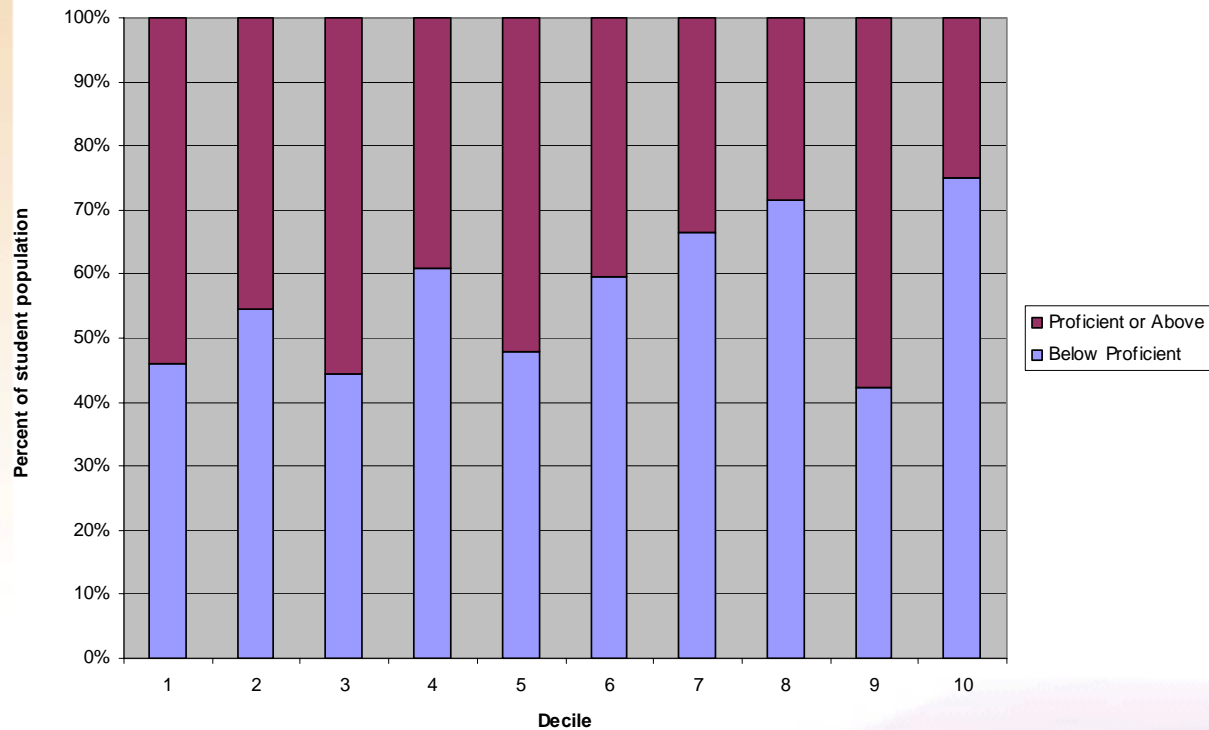
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Performance on 2005 MontCAS Examination: Economic Disadvantage More Adversely Affects American Indian Youth



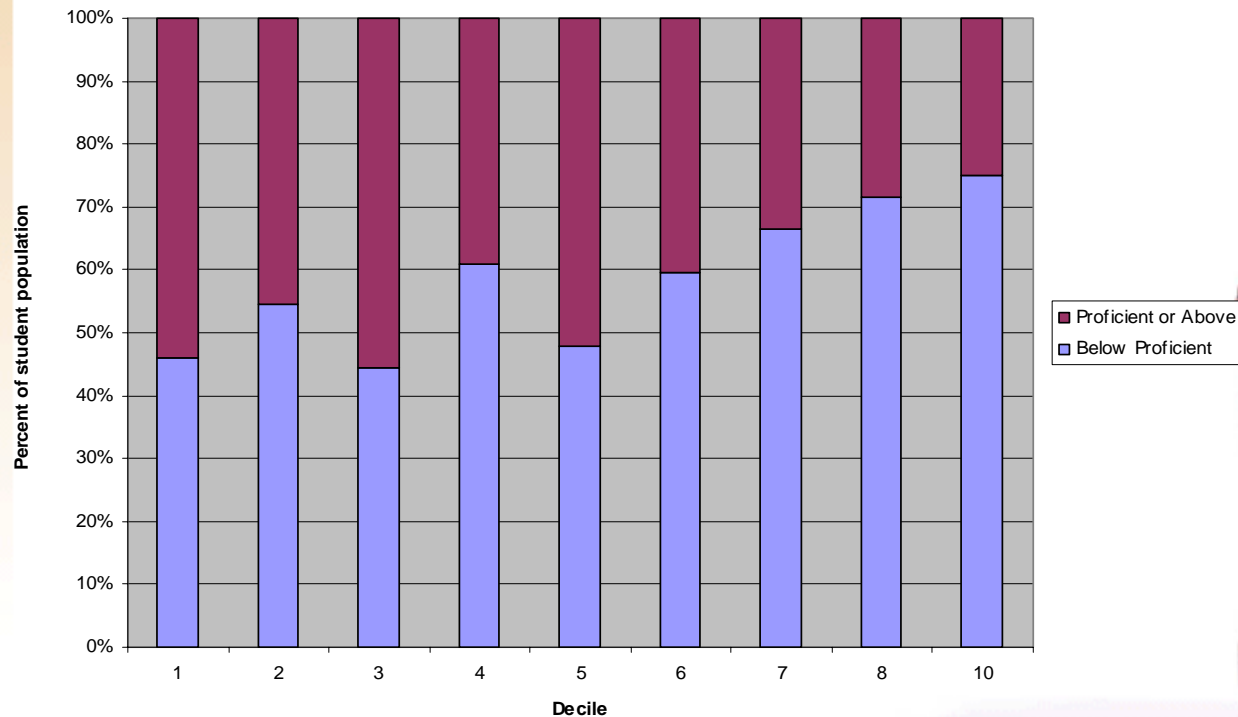
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Percentage of Students Performing at State-Designed Proficiency Levels, 2005 MontCAS examination



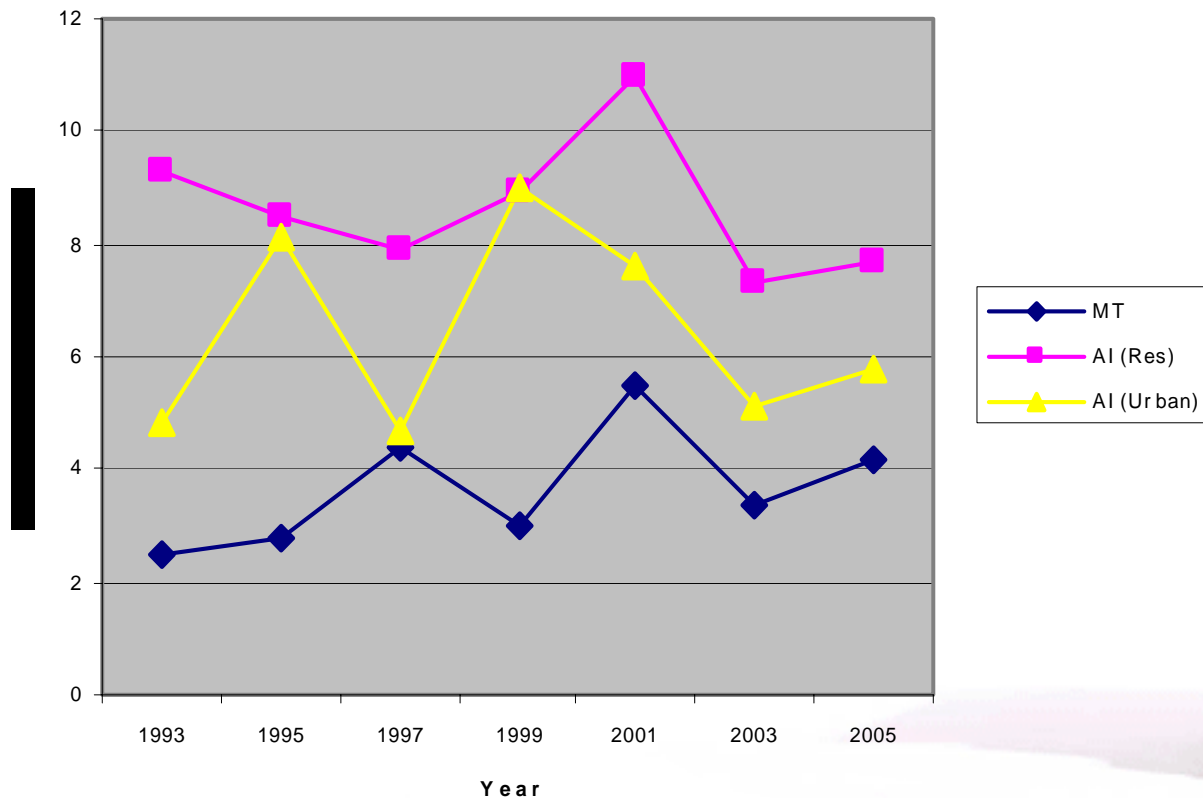
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Percentage of Students Performing at State-Designed Proficiency Levels, 2005 MontCAS examination, Decile 9 excluded



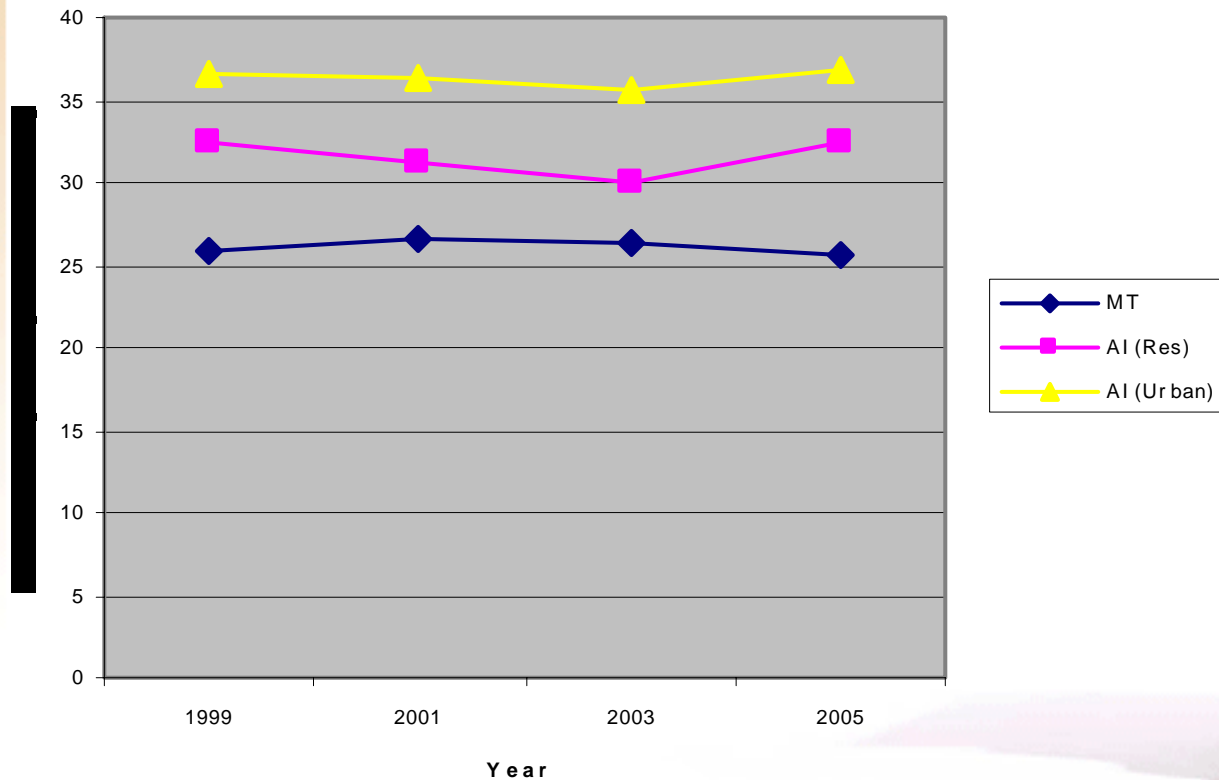
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to school, Youth Risk Behavior Survey



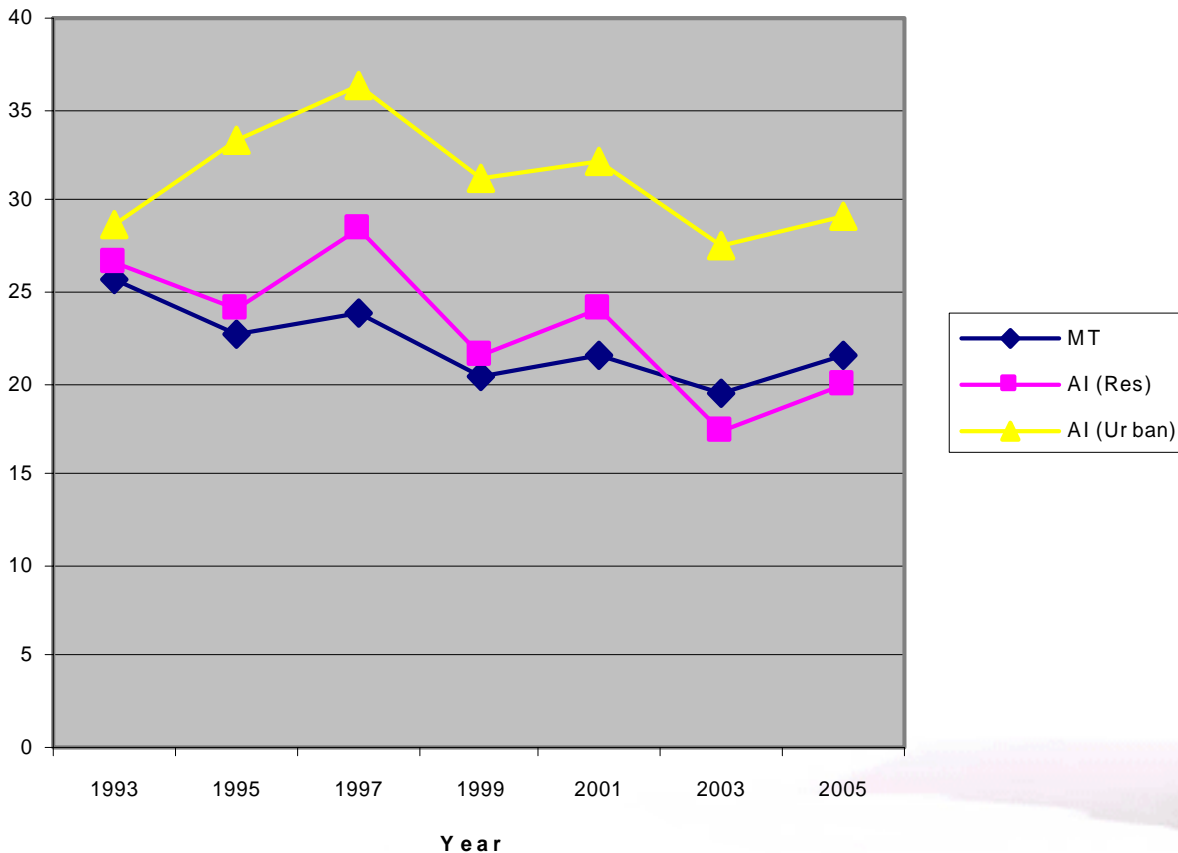
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Felt so sad or hopeless for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities, Youth Risk Behavior Survey



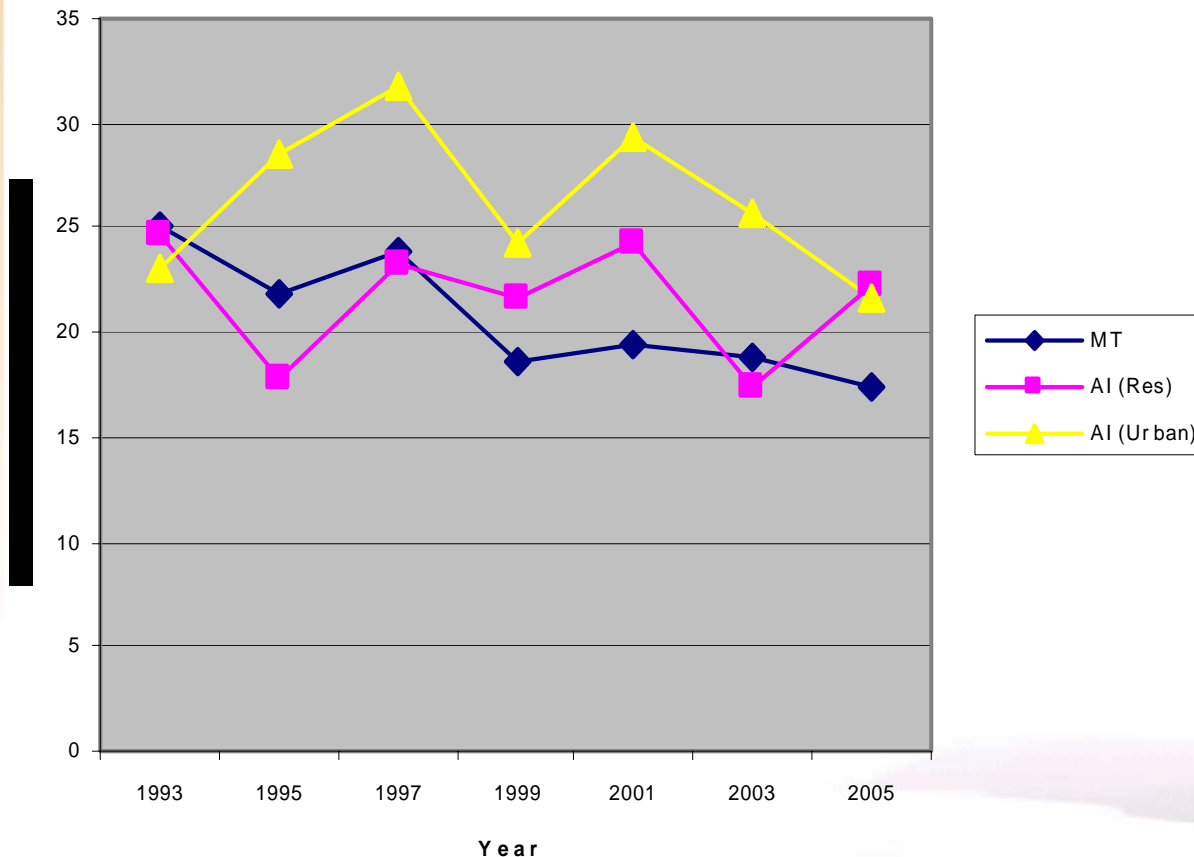
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club during the past 30 days



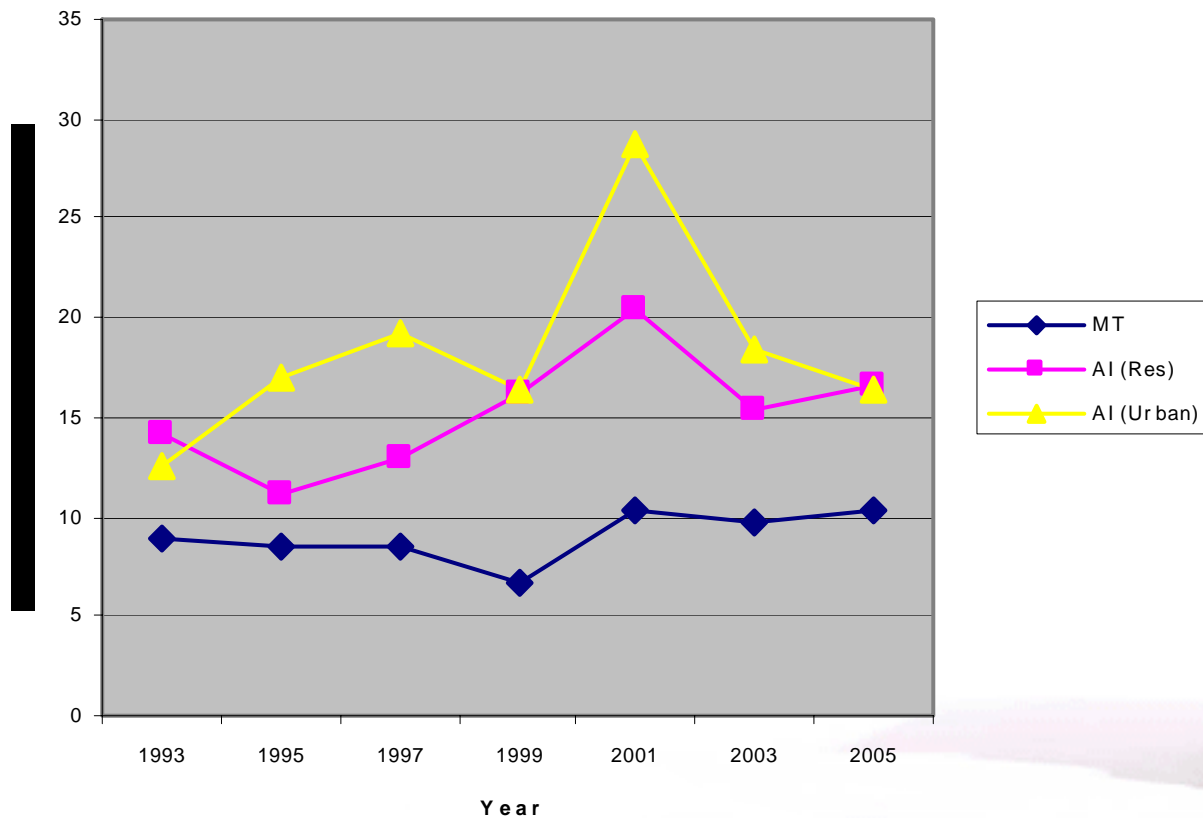
Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months



Montana Schools Can Perform Better

Actually attempted suicide during the past 12 months

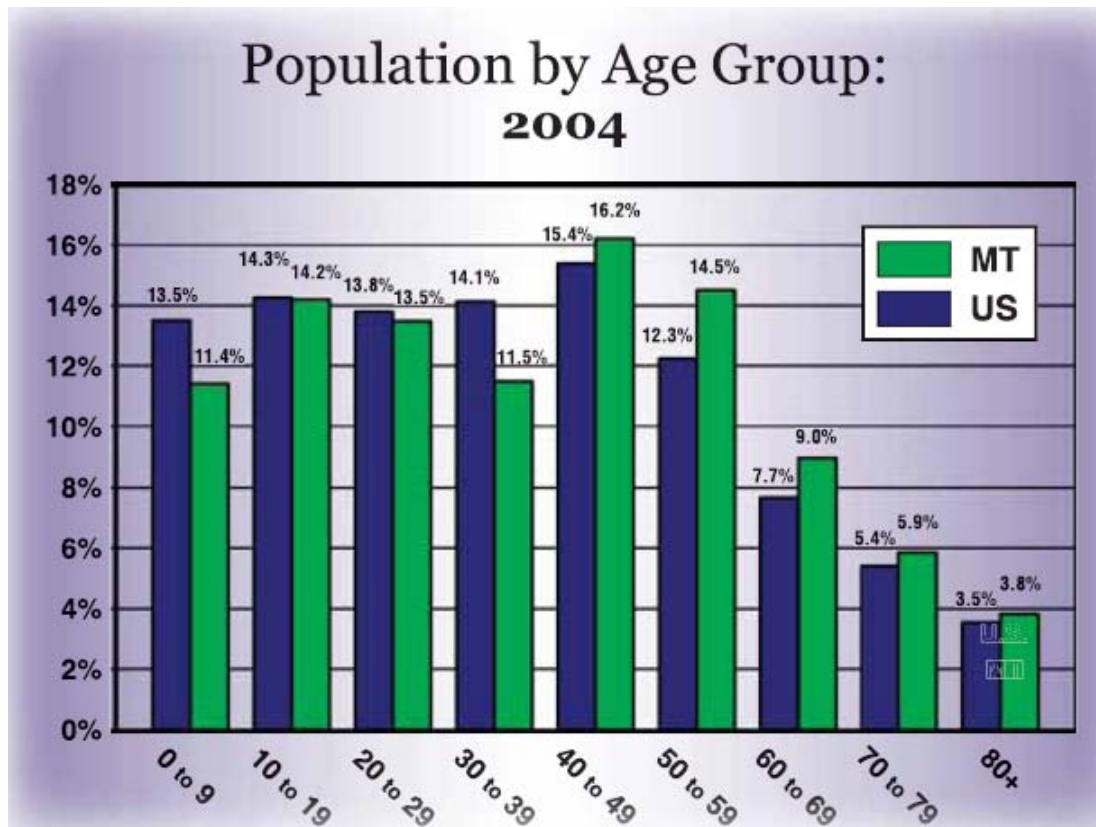


What lies ahead?

American Indians will
continue to grow as
percentage of total
population



What lies ahead?



What lies ahead?

State Dependency Ratio

Number of youth (under age 20) and elderly (over age 65) for every 100 workers

Current US D.R. = 52

2050 U.S. Projection = 70

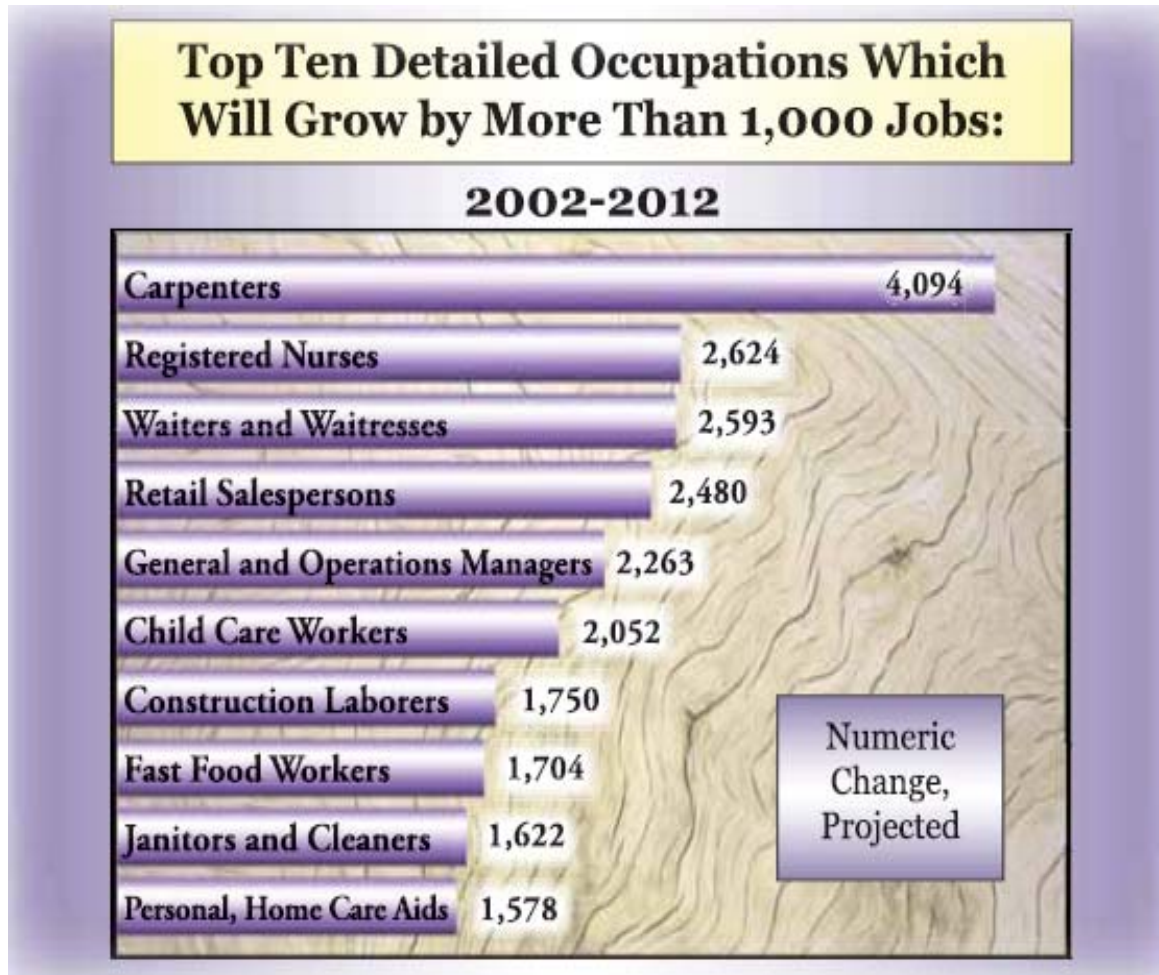
Current Montana D.R. = 78

2025 Montana Projection = 95.3

Rank = 3



What Lies Ahead?



What Lies Ahead?



What Lies Ahead?

Basic job skills most in demand By Gazette News Services

From the Billings Gazette 3/13/06

CASPER -- Workers with basic job skills will be more in demand in Wyoming than those with skills associated with advanced education, according to a state study.

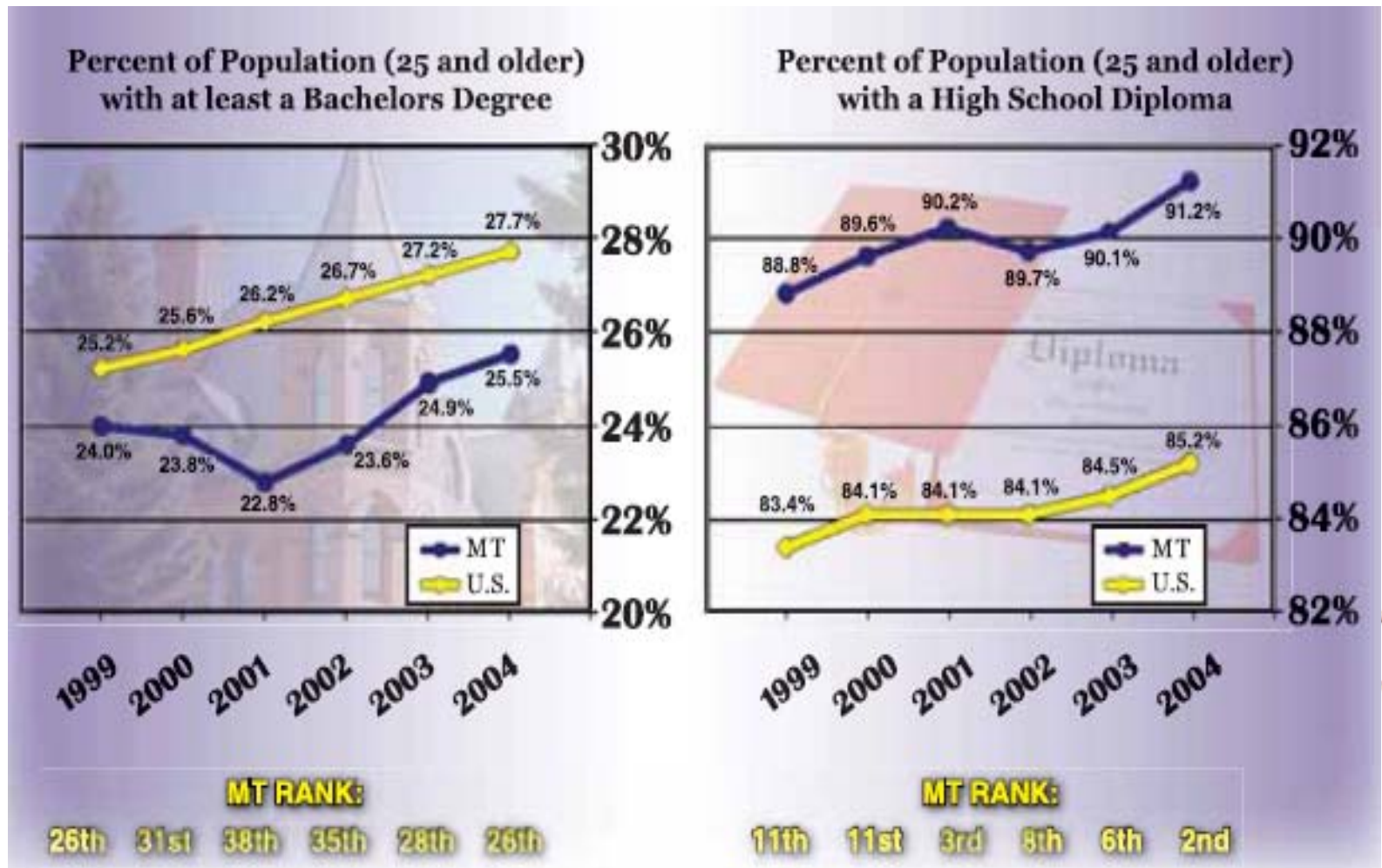
The finding by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research and Planning Division suggests that a "brain drain" of young people who have acquired a higher education will continue since most of the jobs being created in the state are in the fast-growing natural resources and mining, and construction industries.

The mining and construction industries typically don't require more than a high school education, but do require a heavy emphasis of on-the-job training, the study said.

Senior Research Analyst Sylvia Jones, author of the study, said personal skills needed for most of the jobs being created are of a basic variety, such as reading, listening



Is there a brain-drain?



Is There A Brain Drain?

Table 2. Enrollment, residence, and migration of all first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at Title IV institutions, by state: fall 2004

State	Enrollment in institutions located in the designated state	Residents of the designated state attending any institution	Residents of the designated state attending an institution in the same state	Migration of students		
				Into designated state	Out of designated state	Net migration ¹
United States	2,910,285	2,808,642	2,388,047	522,238	420,595	101,643
Alabama	43,438	38,477	34,627	8,809	3,850	4,959
Alaska	3,406	5,014	3,076	330	1,938	-1,608
Arizona	55,471	44,297	40,102	15,369	4,195	11,174
Arkansas	25,940	24,690	21,948	3,992	2,742	1,250
California	305,785	297,316	273,728	32,057	23,588	8,469
Colorado	53,331	51,375	43,391	9,940	7,984	1,956
Connecticut	32,992	37,850	23,270	9,722	14,580	-4,858
Delaware	8,815	7,507	5,373	3,442	2,134	1,308
District of Columbia	12,885	4,763	1,582	11,303	3,181	8,122
Florida	166,609	146,823	134,310	32,299	12,513	19,786
Georgia	91,882	88,760	77,066	14,816	11,694	3,122
Hawaii	8,769	9,135	6,293	2,476	2,842	-366
Idaho	12,798	12,489	9,482	3,316	3,007	309
Illinois	113,731	124,192	100,351	13,380	23,841	-10,461
Indiana	63,892	56,917	49,626	14,066	7,291	6,775
Iowa	44,547	36,429	32,212	12,335	4,217	8,118
Kansas	31,383	29,154	25,304	6,079	3,850	2,229
Kentucky	40,963	36,205	32,150	8,813	4,055	4,758
Louisiana	47,810	44,905	41,053	6,557	3,852	2,705
Maine	11,269	12,460	8,342	2,927	4,118	-1,191
Maryland	49,795	56,894	39,148	10,647	17,746	-7,099
Massachusetts	77,973	69,172	50,673	27,300	18,499	8,801
Michigan	96,492	96,918	87,897	8,595	9,021	-426
Minnesota	62,241	64,123	51,469	10,772	12,654	-1,882
Mississippi	34,198	31,435	29,188	5,010	2,247	2,763
Missouri	53,780	51,655	43,749	10,031	7,906	2,125
Montana	8,622	8,799	6,561	2,061	2,238	-177
Nebraska	19,361	19,268	15,940	3,421	3,328	93
Nevada	14,717	15,260	12,672	2,045	2,588	-543
New Hampshire	12,963	12,442	6,928	6,035	5,514	521



Is there a Brain Drain?

Average SAT (or converted ACT) score of student
in Montana higher education = 1026

Average SAT (or converted ACT) score of
Montana student attending college out of state
= 1215

$1215 - 1026 = 189$ point score difference



How do we respond?

New York Times

March 16, 2006

With Energy-Tax Bonanza, Wyoming Schools Enjoy Windfall

By [KIRK JOHNSON](#)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Forget the bucking bronco. A clattering cash register has become the more apt symbol of [Wyoming](#) in the energy rush.

<.....>

Money has been poured into wildlife protection, historical preservation and the support of families of National Guard troops in Iraq. A \$100 million tax cut this year eliminated the sales tax on groceries. (There is no personal or corporate income tax to cut.) But that still left hundreds of millions to be set aside in an all-purpose savings account that some state officials fantasize could one day grow large enough to subsidize the state budget itself — Wyoming as trust-fund kid, or cowboy emirate.

<.....>

Education is the first step in the journey.

A recently approved \$2.1 billion cash infusion to its public elementary and secondary schools over the next two years — a 24 percent increase in spending, all from energy taxes — could vault the state to first or second in the nation in per-pupil spending, from seventh.

And its only four-year college — the University of Wyoming, west of here in Laramie — is racing ahead even faster. A \$505 million endowment set aside by the Legislature in March will allow the university and the two-year community colleges to go on a hiring spree. The goal is to create perhaps a dozen permanently endowed chairs in an effort to lure high-profile professors — and their graduate students in tow — to the high plains.



How do we respond?

Lawmakers: Ed funding remarkable

Two-thirds of budget goes to education, including scholarships

By The Associated Press

From the Billings Gazette, 3/13/06

CHEYENNE, Wyo. -- The Legislature adjourned its 2006 session on Saturday with leaders of both parties saying the budget state lawmakers produced over the past month offers unprecedented levels of funding and opportunity for Wyoming over the next two years.

Spending on education accounts for nearly two-thirds of the \$3.4 billion in state spending that Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed into law Friday.

Funding for K-12 schools, the state's community college system, the University of Wyoming and various school construction projects totals more than \$2.2 billion.

"There's a ton of funding," said House Speaker Randall Luthi, R-Freedom. "There's a billion dollars worth of funding for K through 12. And certainly if we can improve our educational system by throwing money at it, we've done that."



Summary

Montana students achieve well

Difficult questions surround achievement of
American Indian students

Population predictions suggest a more dependent
population (graying population with few
children)

Problem is compounded by growth in low-wage
sectors of the economy

Though policy environment is similar region-wide,
available responses are not

Disparate responses suggest difficulty



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